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Communist Plans for a Provisional City Assembly in the Soviet Sector of Barlin

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- Preparations for the calling of a Berlin city parliament were begun when the Eastern Magistrat was constituted, but were halted after a conference of top SED leaders (Wilhelm Pieck, Franz Dahlem, and Hans Jendretzky) with STA officials in Karlshorst on 12 and 13 December 1948. The SED has now been directed to convince the other Soviet Sector political parties that the immediate establishment of a parliament would appear undemocratic. The "Democratic Bloc" is to be instructed to agree that the extra-parliamentary methods of 1945 and 1946 - by which a Soviet-constituted Magistrat governed through ordinances without city or district parliaments - could achieve much more than sham parliamentary measures.
- The SED, the Soviet-sponsored CDU and LDP factions, and the Soviet Sector SPD group, had been invited to nominate twenty members each by 15 December for the new parliament. The additional fifty deputies needed for the parliament were to be named, on the basis of ten members each, by the FDGB, the FDJ, and DFB, the Consumers' Cooperatives (Konsumgenossenschaften), and the Kulturbund.
- The question of the parliament had been discussed in detail on 8 December in a meeting of the "Democratic Bloc". The LDP group led by Franz Gensecke, particularly, promoted the idea that a provisional parliament could, at least ex rost facto, legalize the Magistrat which had been constituted on 30 November. The chief difficulty, however, revolved around the virtual impossibility of finding suitable candidates for the city district (Bezirk) assemblies which would have to be constituted at the same time.

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